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What happened to sundial that used to adorn D&H offices on N. Main Street?

By S. ROBERT POWELL

century. Many Carbondale residents speak of the sundial, but not until last Thursday have 1 history is the sundial that was placed by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company in front of its offices on North Main Street during the final decade of the nineteenth

Street, and learned that the sundial was located on the opposite side of Main Street from the D&H shops. "There used to be another D&H office building, like the Ben-Mar, that stood about where Roe's Service Station is now located," Mrs. Wilce reported, "and there was a

path between the buildings that went from Main Street back into the D&H shops and yard, and the sundial was located opposite that path."

From an undated newspaper article (entitled "Carbondale's Novel Timepiece") in a scrapbook that was kept by Mrs. Wilce, we learned, in addition, the history of the sundial. The sundial was placed in its present location in 1898 at the request of the late C.R. Manville, then division superintendent.

"CARBONDALE, July 30 -- No more fitting inscription than 'Perseus et Imputantur,' literally interpreted as 'they (the years of time) pass away and are reckoned against us,' could have been placed on the sundial which rests upon a block of local granite in front of the D. & H. General Offices, North Main Street. The sundial was placed in its present location in 1898 at the request of the late C.R. Manville, then division superintendent."

sundial made according to specifications he drew up himself. At the time he declared he believed that one in front of the offices of the company would lend to the attractiveness of the scene. "This information was imparted by Henry Gramer, 6 Bronson Place, a pensioned D. & H. employee, who was division mason foreman at the time of Mr. Manville's unusual request. Mr. Gramer supervised the placing of the ancient timepiece and personally drilled the holes in the granite into which the dial is fastened."

"The Latin quotation refers to the passing hours, Mr. Gramer stated. In recalling the placing of the dial, Mr. Gramer said that it was set by means of a solar compass but is three to four minutes slow. The tangent on the dial is set directly north, and the hours are marked off in Roman numerals, the half-hours by strokes and the quarter-hours by large dots."

"Mr. Gramer remarked that the granite was obtained by digging into the mountain near the old Gravity No. 7 Plane. Three solid blocks were obtained. One was presented to Mr. Manville, who lived on North Main Street, another went to George Dickson, Clarks Summit, and the third was used as a base for the sundial."

The sundial no longer stands across from the former D&H offices on North Main Street. What happened to it? When was the last time that anyone recalls seeing it?



This sundial article is sure to be a big hit. The illustration (photo) from the old newspaper worked very well.

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Community Calendar

Historical Soc. meeting set

The Carbondale Historical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. on September 15, in 301 City Hall.

Among the items on the agenda are: the society's annual fall dinner, the October 8 visit to Carbondale by a delegation from the Chemung County (New York) Historical Society, and the implementation of the society's annual membership drive.

Baptist church

On Sunday, September 18, a full "Day of Joy and Gladness" will be celebrated in the Berean Baptist Church. At 11 a.m., a communion service will be held. At 12:30 p.m., a catered dinner will be served in the social rooms of the church. At 2:30 p.m., the mortgage on the present church building will be burnt in a public ceremony held in the church sanctuary.

Taking part in the mortgage burning ceremony will be former pastor, Arthur W. Meneely. The mortgage burning service will be a public occasion and all who assisted the church in any

way to satisfy its creditors in 12 years, instead of the projected 15 years, are invited to attend.

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Weekly fire and police log

INCIDENTS

SEPTEMBER 2
Gerald Chippa, Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested by Sergeant Russell Scavo for disorderly conduct.

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S.G. Talarico, Dundaff Street, reported to Sergeant Albert Mazza that his automobile, which was parked on Dundaff Street, had been stolen.

SEPTEMBER 3
Gerogetta Tolan reported to Officer Dominick Andiora that her car, which was parked on Pike Street, had been stolen.

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Martin J. Mittermaier, East Orange, N.J., reported to Officer Joseph McDonald that four hub caps had been stolen from his automobile, which was parked on Williams Avenue.

SEPTEMBER 4

Officer Michael O'Hara investigated a report from Rea & Derick, Ames Plaza, that a stone had been thrown through the window of the store.

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Officer George Burke investigated a report from Jack Roe's Service Station that bottles were being broken on the premises. Two juveniles were taken into custody by Carbondale Police.

SEPTEMBER 5

Officer George Burke investigated a report from Gerald Bannon, Washington Street, that eggs had been thrown at his house and damaged the siding.

SEPTEMBER 6
Officer Joseph McDonald cited Clement Badnash, University Avenue, Rochester, N.Y., for public drunkenness.

SEPTEMBER 8

Saul's Motors, Brooklyn Street, reported to Officer Frank Critelli that four tires had been stolen from the company.

ACCIDENTS

SEPTEMBER 3
John Wallace, 68 Lunny Court, reported to Officer Joseph Mase that his wife's 1981 Buick, which was parked in the lot at the Carbondale General Hospital, had been damaged.

SEPTEMBER 7

Officer Joseph Mase investigated an accident at the intersection of North Main and North Church Streets. A 1978 Mack Tractor, owned by Kleer Span Truss Co., Clayville, N.Y., and driver by Douglas Hungerford, Hubbersville, N.Y., was turning left onto North Church Street when the trusses loaded on the truck hit the traffic signal

pole and pushed it several feet, pulling the wires away and putting the signals out.

FIRE
SEPTEMBER 1, 8:35 a.m.
Engine 4 and Truck 1 answered a false alarm (Box 65) at Carbondale General Hospital.

11:20 a.m.
Engine 4 Trucks 1 and 3 extinguished and electrical fire at the residence of Paul Sweder, 34 Columbia Avenue.

SEPTEMBER 3, 3:39 p.m.
Engine 4 and Truck 1 extinguished a fire, of undetermined cause, at the rear of Monarch Pallet, Lower Pike Street.

SEPTEMBER 4, 4:45 p.m.
Engine 4 extinguished a brush and garbage fire on Wayne Street, past Carey Avenue.

SEPTEMBER 8, 10:25 a.m.
Trucks 1 and 3 responded to a false alarm (Box 65) at Carbondale General Hospital.

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